

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 SPC-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8226

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 3193

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, DA, GL, FO

SUBJECT: GENERAL ELECTION - NO. 13 - GREENLAND

AND FAEROE ISLAND RETURNS

REF: COPENHAGEN 3072

SUMMARY: OF THE FOUR NEWLY-ELECTED FOLKETING MEMBERS
FROM DANISH OUTLAYING TERRITORIES, GREENLAND AND FAEROE
ISLANDS, ONLY ONE WAS MEMBER OF OUTGOING PARLIAMENT.
THREE OF THE FOUR ARE LIKELY TO COOPERATE WITH THE
FOLKETING'S SOCIAIST BLOCK. END SUMMARY.

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1. ELECTION IN GREENLAND SAW BOTH INCUMBENTS DEFEATED. KNUD HERTLING, MINISTER FOR GREENLAND, WAS BEATEN IN NORTH GREENLAND DISTRICT BY YOUNG, RADICAL MEMBER OF GREENLAND'S PROVINCIAL COUNCIL, LARS EMIL JOHANSEN, MOSES OLSEN WAS, AS EXPECTED, DEFEATED IN SOUTH GREENLAND BY NICOLAJ ROSING, A VETERAN FOLKETING MEMBER FROM THAT DISTRICT. ALTHOUGH MODERATE LIBERALS (V) HOPE THAT ORSING CAN BE PERSUADED TO COOPERATE WITH THEIR PARTY - POST OF MINISTER FOR GREENLAND MAY BE OFFERED - IT IS LIKELY THAT HE WILL MAINTAIN HIS TRADITIONAL STAND THAT GREENLAND REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN POLITICS OF METROPOLITAN DENMARK.

2. JOHANSEN, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS REPORTEDLY CUT FROM SAME BOLT OF CLOTH (POLAR BEAR HIDE) AS MOSES OLSEN. HE IS EXPECTED TO ALIGN HIMSELF WITH THE LEFTIST SOCIALIST PEOPLES (SF) PARTY, AND, WHILE PROFESSING SAME INDEPENDENT STAND AS ROSING IN PRINCIPLE, TO USE HIS FOLKETING POSITION TO GET SUPPORT FOR ISSUES OF INTEREST TO GREENLAND BY TRADE-OFFS ON OTHER ISSUES.

3. FAEROESE ELECTION DEC 14 RETURNED THE INCUMBENT SOCIAL DEMOCRAT JOHAN NIELSEN - WHO TRADITIONALLY AFFILIATES WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENTARY GROUP - AND ERLENDUR PATURSSON, A SURPRISE DARK HORSE. PATURSSON, THE ENFANT TERRIBLE OF FAEROESE POLITICS, IS LEADER OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY - WHICH, BECAUSE OF ITS ADVOCACY OF ABSOLUTE INDEPENDENCE FOR THE FAEROES, HAS NEVER PREVIOUSLY CONTESTED A FOLKETING ELECTION. THIS POLICY WAS ABANDONED IN ORDER TO GIVE THE PARTY A SPEAKER'S PLATFORM FOR ITS ADAMANTLY ANTI-EC PROGRAM. IN THE FOLKETING, PATURSSON WILL OPPOSE ALL EC LEGISLATION, VOTING WITH THE ANTI-EC BLOC (COMMUNIST, (C), SF AND JUSTICE (J) PARTIES) IN SUCH INSTANCES, AND IS EXPECTED, IN GENERAL, TO ALIGN HIMSELF WITH THE SF PARTY.

4. COMMENT: THE ELECTION OF JOHANSEN AND PATURSSON IS DISQUIETING NEWS FOR THE DANISH GOVERNMENT, FOR IT REFLECTS INCREASING STRENGTH OF SEPARATIST MOVEMENTS IN GREENLAND AND FAEROES RESPECTIVELY. JOHANSEN BELONGS TO GROUP OF CONFIDENTIAL

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YOUNG GREENLANDIC ACTIVISTS WHO ARE PRESSING FOR HOME RULE AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT. PATURSSON CONSIDERS DANISH MEMBERSHIP IN EC INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE PRESERVATION OF FAEROESE FISHING RIGHTS (HE FAVORS THE FIFTY-MILE LIMIT), AND HE ARGUES, CONSEQUENTLY, THAT IMMEDIATE AND COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE IS THE ONLY SOLUTION FOR THE FAEROE ISLANDS. DUNNIGAN

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